



Winter Weather Safety



NOAA/NWS

Winter Weather Safety Seasonal Campaign



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

www.weather.gov



Winter Weather Safety

Winter Weather Hazards



- Snow/Ice
- Blizzards
- Flooding
- Cold Temperatures





Winter Weather Safety



Blizzards, ice storms and freezing temperatures can be a killer for the unprepared!

Know Your Risk!
Take Action!
Be A Force of Nature!



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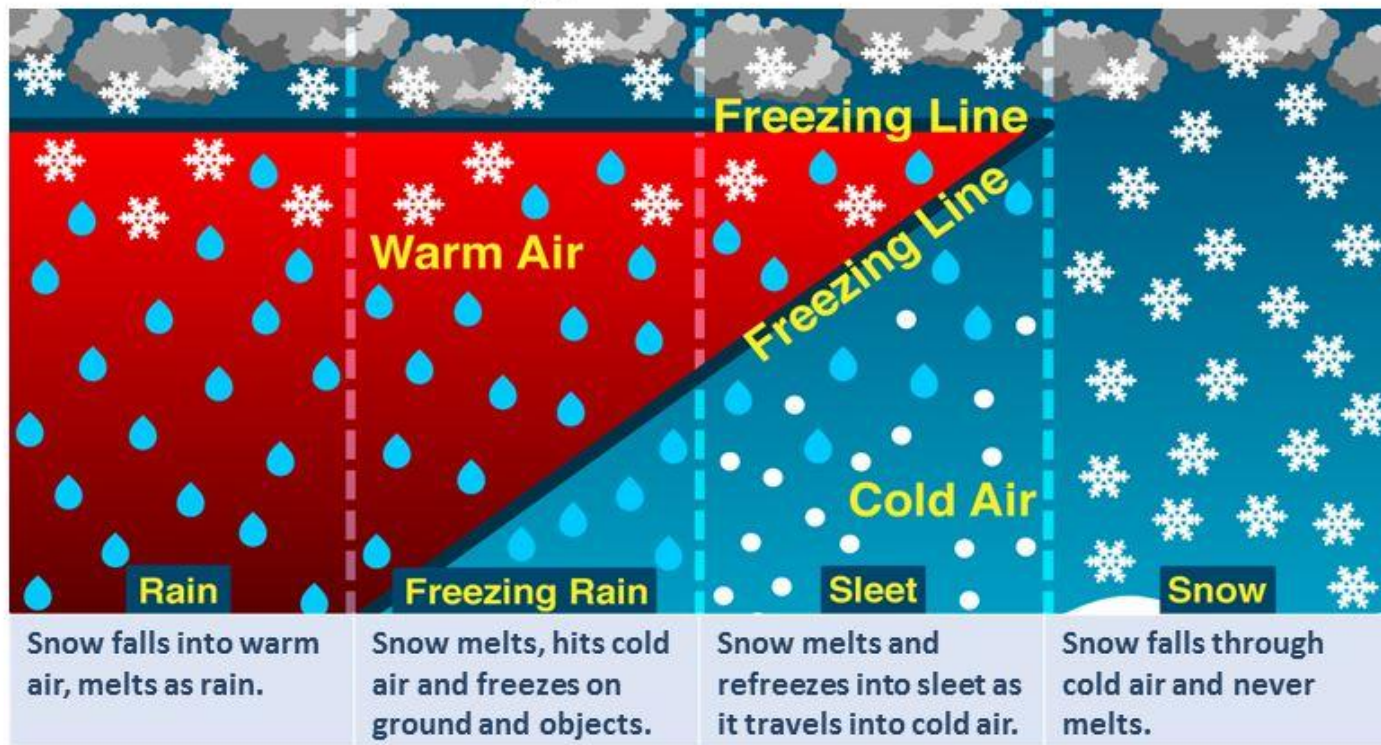
Winter Weather Safety

Snow and Ice



Winter can bring freezing rain, sleet and snow.

How The Different Types Of Winter Precipitation Form





Winter Weather Safety

Snow and Ice



- A few inches of snow or ice can shut down a city and leave you trapped at home for days.
- Driving on ice and snow-covered roads can lead to car wrecks, injuries and death.
- Some winter storms can cover nearly half the nation, affecting tens of millions of people. Annually, damages from winter storms add up to over \$1 billion.





Winter Weather Safety

Blizzards



- Blizzards are dangerous winter storms that are a combination of blowing snow and wind resulting in very low visibilities.
- A blizzard is a storm which contains large amounts of snow OR blowing snow, with winds in excess of 35 miles per hour and visibilities of less than one quarter of a mile for at least three hours.
- When these conditions are expected, the National Weather Service will issue a "Blizzard Warning".





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Flooding



- Flooding is possible due to snowmelt, ice jams and coastal storms such as Nor'easters.
- Ice jams are common during the winter.
- As ice moves downstream, it may get caught on an obstruction to the water flow.
- Water can be held back, causing upstream flooding.
- When the jam finally breaks, flash flooding can occur downstream.





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Cold Temperatures



- Exposure to cold temperatures can cause frostbite and hypothermia.
- Frostbite may develop on exposed skin when temperatures are below freezing.
- Wind in addition to below freezing temperatures can make frostbite set even quicker.
- Wind Chill calculator: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/windchill.shtml>





Winter Weather Safety

Watch, Warning, Advisory



- Winter Storm Warning: Take Action! A winter storm is imminent or occurring. If you hear a warning, immediately go home or shelter in place until it is safe to travel again. If you are home, bring in pets and plan to stay inside until you are told it is safe to go out again.
- Winter Storm Watch: Be Prepared! NWS issues a Winter Storm Watch when conditions are favorable for dangerous winter weather. It does not mean the weather will occur, but it is possible. Make preparations for dangerous winter weather.
- Winter Weather Advisory: Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.





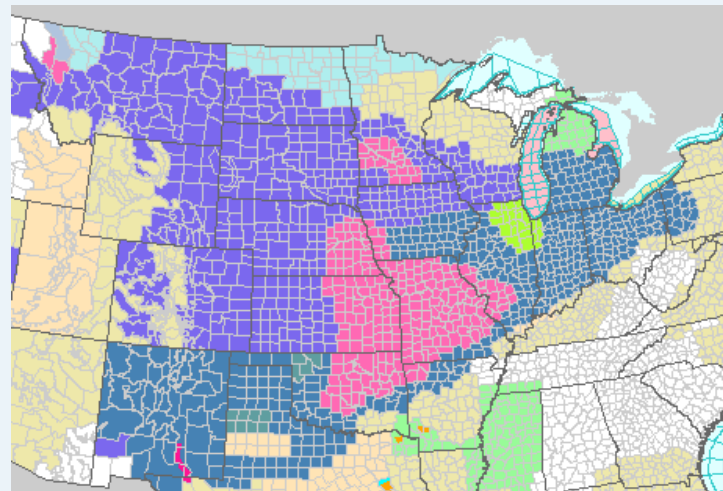
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Take Action!



Prepare for winter with these simple steps:

- Check the forecast at weather.gov and follow NWS on Twitter and Facebook to make sure you're prepared for the elements and have the latest weather news.
- At home: have an Emergency Preparedness Kit with three days of food, water and prescription medications.
- Make sure your cell phone is fully charged when a storm is approaching and also anytime you're planning to leave the house. It could become your life-line should disaster strike.





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Take Action!



- In your car: make sure you have food, water and blankets in your trunk. Stay off the road when advised to do so by local authorities.
- Dress for the season: wear loose, warm clothing in layers.
- During and after the storm: never use a generator or kerosene heater indoors - carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent killer.
- After the storm: take breaks when shoveling snow and stay clear of downed power lines.





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**For more information
on winter weather
safety, visit the NWS
Winter Weather Page
[www.weather.
gov/wintersafety](http://www.weather.gov/wintersafety)**



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